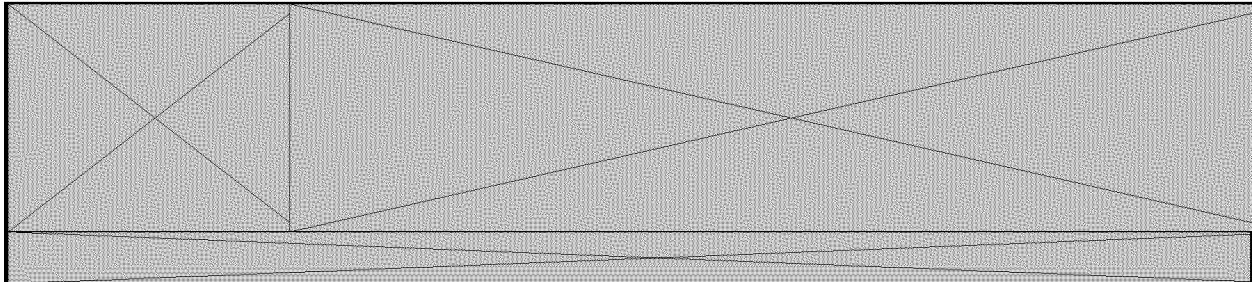


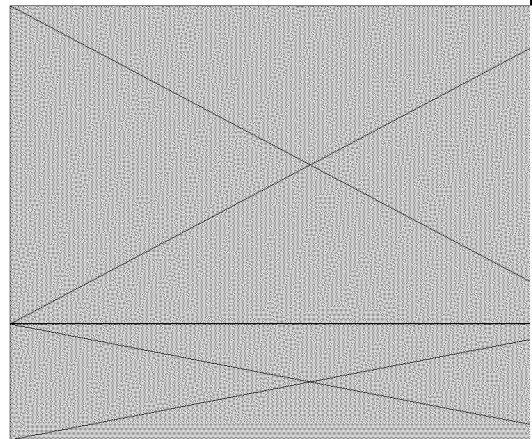
**To:** Suriano, Elaine[Suriano.Elaine@epa.gov]  
**From:** action=earthworksaction.org@mail.salsalabs.net  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 3:45:20 PM  
**Subject:** Animas River Spill is a Wake Up Call



## Animas River Spill is Mining's Toxic Legacy

*We can stop it from happening again*

Dear Elaine,



Last week, the **worst US hardrock mining-related disaster in decades** unfolded upstream from Durango, Colorado. Durango is home to members of Earthworks' team and a community near and dear to our hearts.

The long inactive Gold King mine was breached during EPA led cleanup efforts, **spilling 3 million gallons of toxic mining waste into the Animas River**. The spill now affects over 100 miles of river in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Photos of bright orange water and national news headlines followed.

While this spill captures front page headlines, **the real source of the problem: the 1872 Mining Law and the lack of dedicated funds for cleaning up inactive and abandoned mines** that leave millions of people at risk of losing their clean drinking water.

Please consider **donating to our Rapid Response Fund**. Your contributions will support outreach to the media and to policymakers so we can solve this 143 year-old problem once and for all.

Over the past few days, we've talked to CBS, CNN, NPR, Al Jazeera America and The New York

Times, to name just a few. **You can help us spread the word for reform further.**

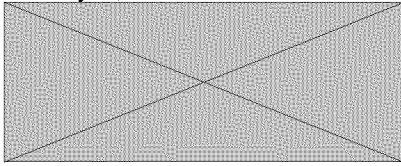
The sad truth is that **the Gold King disaster was both predictable and preventable**. 500,000 abandoned mines scattered across the Western US leak pollution into our waters every day leaving behind a \$50 billion price tag. The acid mine drainage which made the Animas River orange can persist for thousands of years if left untreated.

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) has introduced legislation that could prevent future disasters. HR 963, the **Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act of 2015, would reform a legacy of bad mining legislation** going back to 1872. And last night Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) announced that he will introduce his own bill to modernize the law when Congress resumes. With your help, we will build support for these important bills.

Join us in reforming a legacy of bad mining legislation that has led us to this disaster. **Your support for the Rapid Response Fund will galvanize the campaign for comprehensive mining reform.**

Nobody wants to wake up to a bright orange river in their backyard. Communities deserve to have their drinking water protected from mining waste. Together, we can stop future disasters from happening.

Thank you,



Jennifer Krill, Earthworks Executive Director

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